

Implementing the security plan

By Master Sgt. Dave Larsen
1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

BAGHDAD - Iraqi security forces and Soldiers from the Multi-National Division - Baghdad uncovered 14 weapons caches and detained 140 insurgent suspects in and around the Iraqi capital during the week of Feb. 3-9.

With more than 7,400 patrols conducted during the week, the trend of having Iraqi security forces in the lead on day-to-day missions continues, according to Brig. Gen. John Campbell, MND-B deputy commanding general.

"Nearly 3,800 of those patrols were conducted by Iraqi police and Iraqi national police," Campbell noted. "Clearly, our Iraqi partners are taking the lead."

During the week, 34 operations, at company level or higher, were conducted. These operations, 20 of them joint and



(Photo by Spc. L.B. Edgar 7th MPAD)

Pfc. Jason Bates, with Company A, 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, which is attached to 2nd BCT, 1st Inf. Div., pulls security in the Hurriyah neighborhood of the Kadamiyah district of Baghdad Feb. 8.

14 U.S.-led resulted in the cache finds and detention of suspected terrorists, Campbell said. He said as the implementation of the new security plan progresses, the focus of operations

will shift throughout the Iraqi capital.

"Rusafa is a focal point for us right now," Campbell said of the east Baghdad district. "We're addressing that area

with increased security forces and patrols."

Campbell noted that elements of the 82nd Airborne Division's 2nd "Falcon" Brigade Combat Team and Iraqi security forces have established a Combat Outpost in the Iraqi capital - located in the Adhamiyah district, just north of Rusafa.

"These joint combat outposts allow Iraqi security forces and coalition troops the ability to reach out within these neighborhoods, providing a steady-ing presence and allowing them to understand the security and safety concerns of the residents, firsthand," Campbell said. "Just having us there, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, will improve the security situations within these areas."

Campbell said these outposts will continue to spring up

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Airborne sets up shop in Adhamiyah

By Sgt. Mike Pryor
2-82 Abn. Public Affairs

BAGHDAD - The 82nd Airborne Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team established a combat outpost in the heart of Baghdad this week in an effort to reduce sectarian violence in the Iraqi capital and assist the Iraqi security forces to take control of the city.

Paratroopers from the 2nd BCT's 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry

Regiment will be living, working, and conducting operations out of the newly-established Combat Outpost (COP) Callahan, located in Baghdad's Adhamiyah district.

"Living in this neighborhood means we can maintain a constant presence. We're not going home at night. We're here 24/7," said 1st Lt. David Bopp, of Boulder, Colo., a platoon leader with Company C, 2nd Bn., 325th AIR.

Until recently, COP Callahan was nothing more than the skeletal remains of

what had once been a busy shopping mall. But in the early morning hours of Feb. 7, following dozens of precision-targeted raids in the area by the 2nd Infantry Division's 3rd Stryker BCT, the 2nd Bn. "White Falcons" moved in and occupied the building.

Since then, COP Callahan has been a whirlwind of activity. At any given hour,

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New CG of Multi-National Force - Iraq writes troops

To the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Civilians of Multi-National Force -Iraq:

We serve in Iraq at a critical time. The war here will soon enter its fifth year. A decisive moment approaches.

Shoulder-to-shoulder with our Iraqi comrades, we will conduct a pivotal campaign to improve security for the Iraqi people. The stakes could not be higher.

Our task is crucial. Security is essential for Iraq to build its future.

Only with security can the Iraqi government come to grips with the tough issues it confronts and develop the capacity to serve its citizens. The hopes of the Iraqi people and the coalition countries are with us.

The enemies of Iraq will shrink at no act, however barbaric.

They will do all that they can to shake the confidence of the people and to convince the world that this effort is doomed. We must not underestimate them.

Together with our Iraqi partners, we must defeat those who oppose the new Iraq.

We cannot allow mass murders to hold the initiative. We must strike them relentlessly. We and our Iraqi partners must set the terms of the struggle, not our enemies. And together we must prevail.

The way ahead will not be easy. There will be difficult times in the months to

come. But hard is not hopeless, and we must remain steadfast in our effort to help improve security for the Iraqi people.

I am confident that each of you will fight with skill and courage, and that you will remain loyal to your comrades-in-

arms and to the values our nations hold so dear.

In the end, Iraqis will decide the outcome of this struggle. Our task is to help them gain the time they need to save their country.

To do that, many of us will live and fight alongside them. Together, we will face down the terrorist, insurgents, and criminals who slaughter the innocent.

Success will require discipline, fortitude, and initiative - qualities that you have in abundance. I appreciate your sacrifices and those of your families.

Now, more than ever, your commitment to service and your skill can make the difference between victory and defeat in a very tough mission.

It is an honor to soldier again with the members of the Multi-National Force-Iraq. I know that wherever you serve in this undertaking you will give your all.

In turn, I pledge my commitment to our mission and every effort to achieve success as we help the Iraqis chart a course to a brighter future. Godspeed to each of you and to our Iraqi comrades in this crucial endeavor.

Gen. David H. Petraeus
Multi-National Force - Iraq
Commanding General



(Photo by Sgt. Curt Cashour MNC-I Public Affairs)

Gen. David H. Petraeus speaks to the crowd during the Multi-National Force - Iraq change of command ceremony Feb. 10. at Camp Victory, Iraq.

Arabic Phrase
of the Day
raqam

Defined:
number

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

High: 67
Low: 43



Tomorrow

High: 61
Low: 46



Wednesday

High: 66
Low: 45

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There goes the neighborhood

COP

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paratroopers are busy stringing concertina wire, sawing and hammering lumber, and stacking sandbags to ensure maximum force protection. Outside, cranes and forklifts move heavy concrete barriers into place along the perimeter, mindful of the occasional sniper fire. As all this is going on, patrols constantly move in and out to meet the local population.

For the people of Adhamiyah, not accustomed to seeing a coalition presence in their neighborhoods, the sight of paratroopers walking the streets and getting to know the locals is a novelty.

"Being dismounted is the key to winning this fight, in my opinion," said Bopp. "You can't interact with someone behind a window of glass."

Because of the face-to-face contact they invite, foot patrols are the White Falcons' most effective intelligence-gathering tool. Information also gives the paratroopers

an understanding of the issues and problems in the community. By acting on both kinds of information and producing tangible results, the White Falcons hope to win the locals over to their side.

The success of the plan will depend largely on the abilities of noncommissioned officers like Sgt. Patrick Ireland, a squad leader with Co. B, 2nd Bn., 325th AIR. When he leaves the COP, Ireland has to be a Soldier, a policeman, a diplomat and a traveling salesman - sometimes all at once.

On one recent patrol, Ireland set out to introduce himself to his new neighbors. He spent the next five hours going door-to-door, collecting business cards, sipping tea, asking polite questions and painstakingly trying to piece scraps of information together to form a complete picture of the area.

"Right now, it's just matching a name with a face, but I guarantee we're going to know these people really, really well by the end of this deployment," Ireland said.



(Photo by Sgt. Mike Pryor 2-82 Abn. Public Affairs)

Pfc. Giovanni Rincon, of Brooklyn, N.Y., a paratrooper with Company B, 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, makes friends with an Iraqi girl during a patrol in Baghdad's Adhamiyah district Feb. 8

Baghdad in Brief

Operation targets car bomb manufacturers in Rusafa

BAGHDAD - Operations in support of the Baghdad security plan continued in the Rusafa area, as a combined Iraqi Army and coalition task force conducted targeted raids focused on disrupting vehicle-borne improvised explosive device networks Feb. 11.

Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army, the 4th Brigade, 1st Iraqi Army and 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division are engaged in the operation. The government of Iraq requested coalition support to enter this area and address the emerging threat of car bombs, a frequent killer of Iraqi citizens.

"Our mission is to clear areas in Rusafa specifically focusing on the VBIED networks," said Lt. Col. Joseph Davidson, a Congers, N.Y., native and executive officer for the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

One suspect with a fake identification card has been detained. This operation is one of many ongoing efforts designed to attack the construction and assembly sites for car bombs.

Iraqi Army, coalition forces stop car bomb cell

BAGHDAD - Another car bomb cell is off the streets after Iraqi and Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldiers responded to a tip and conducted a raid in the northwest neighborhood of Ameriyah Feb. 8.

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army conducted the raid while Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, provided security from the outer cordon.

The IA troops detained one terrorist suspect. During initial questioning, the suspect implicated a second suspected car bomb cell member living next door.



(Photo by Sgt. Michael Garrett 7th MPAD)

There's more than just livestock on this farm

Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division uncover a weapons cache buried on a farm in western Baghdad Feb. 10. The Iraqi troops, working together with Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, also took 15 suspects into custody for questioning. The weapons cache, uncovered in Lataifalaied village, contained numerous munitions, including blasting caps, two 122mm artillery rounds, 1000 7.62mm ammunition rounds as well as other improvised explosive device-making materials.

Suspects detained, caches found, assistance provided

Plan

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in Baghdad as the security plan continues. The first COP was established last month in the Kadamiyah security district by elements of the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, attached to 2nd Infantry Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team.

While security remains the top concern for MND-B, civil military operations aimed at providing economic, educational and humanitarian assistance are ongoing throughout the Iraqi capital.

One of the highlights this week was the opening of a new business center at the Baghdad International Airport.

"The center, sponsored by the Iraqi American Chamber of Commerce and Industry, is designed to host business meetings at the airport," said Navy Cdr. Mike Sanchez, a civil military plans officer with MND-B.

Sanchez said Feb. 5 marked

the grand opening of the Taji High School for Girls, north of the Iraqi capital. More than 400 students will attend this school starting next month.

South of the city, the Sadr Yusufiyah Farm Association distributed 100 bags of potato seed.

"This comes just in time for the spring planting season," Sanchez said. "Potato farming is a large portion of the agricultural business in the western section of Baghdad province."

Iraqi and U.S. forces also distributed meals, blankets and other necessities to hundreds of needy Baghdad citizens this week, Sanchez added.

Residents of the often volatile Haifa Street neighborhood in central Baghdad were the recipients of humanitarian aid from Iraqi security forces and troops from 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, Sanchez said. "Our Civil Military Operations Centers throughout Baghdad continue to serve the local populace."

Though the implementation of the new security plan for Baghdad is just beginning, Campbell said he's encouraged by the early results.

"With the cache finds this week, the detentions we've made

and creating a larger presence on Baghdad streets with the establishment of another combat outpost, we are making headway with the Baghdad security plan," Campbell said. "This is only the beginning."



(Photo by Spc. L.B. Edgar, 7th MPAD)

Sgt. John Pruitt, with Company A, 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, attached to 2nd BCT, 1st Inf. Div., passes an Iraqi man on the streets of the Hurriyah neighborhood in Baghdad's Kadamiyah district Feb. 8.

Crew chief dons Combat Action Badge

By Spc. Nathan Hoskins
1st ACB Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - A UH-60 Black Hawk medical evacuation crew chief from the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division was awarded the Combat Action Badge in a ceremony Feb. 4.

Valders, Wis., native Spc. Jordan Downey, a Black Hawk crew chief and flight instructor from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, stood proudly before his peers as Reno, Nev., native Lt. Col. Christopher Joslin, commander of the 2-227th pinned on his CAB.

Downey, along with the rest of the MEDEVAC crew, received CABs for their actions while taking direct fire into their aircraft Dec. 12, 2006, said Joslin.

On that day in December, Downey's aircraft was on final approach to the Victory Base Complex when they received fire directly into the cockpit, shooting shattered pieces of the windshield into a pilot's face,



(Photo by Spc. Nathan Hoskins, 1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

Spc. Jordan Downey, a UH-60 Black Hawk medical evacuation crew chief and flight instructor for Company C, 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division is awarded the Combat Action Badge Feb.4 at Taji, Iraq.

said Downey.

The aircraft, which sports a large red cross on the side to denote its status as a medical aircraft, came under enemy fire as it was en route to pick up a patient, according to Corpus Christi, Texas, native Maj. Guy Gierhart, commander of Company C, 2-227th Avn.

Reg.

"My pilot was slumped over. I thought he was dead. I checked my fellow crew chief, he was slumped over. I thought [the bullets] went through the pilot and killed him," he recalled of the moment shortly after the first burst of fire.

As it turned out the pilot

was just in shock and the other crew chief was leaning over while checking the aircraft, said Downey.

"Things were interesting ... needless to say, on that day, that entire crew earned a combat action badge," said Joslin.

"[Receiving the CAB] is kind of a bittersweet occasion because you're getting noticed for being engaged, being attacked by the enemy - something you don't really want to experience in your life," said Downey. "As [Joslin] said, 'the only two awards you never really want to get are the CAB and the Purple Heart.' I'm just lucky I got the lesser of the two."

The two pilots, Syracuse, N.Y., native Chief Warrant Officer 3 Anthonio Ferrio, and Pensacola, Fla., native 1st Lt. Alec Finlay of Co. C, 2-227th, and the other crew chief from Fairborn, Ohio, Eric Wong of Company A, 2-227th will be awarded the CAB as well, but were unable to attend the ceremony because of mission requirements.

TELEVISION



	8:00p.m.	8:30p.m.	9:00p.m.	9:30p.m.	10:00p.m.	10:30p.m.	11:00p.m.
AFN sports	College Gamenight	NBA Fastbreak	Sports Center			NFL Films Presents	Women's College Basketball
AFN prime ATLANTIC	Meet the Press		Wall Street Journal Report	ESPNNews	Seasme Street		The View
AFN news	FNC		60 Minutes		World News Now		ATS/Regional News